

and North Carolina have one of the most legendary rivalries in the nation. That being said, I truly have been behind this team—I even wore Carolina blue to several events in North Carolina last week to show my support!

On Monday night, the Tar Heels defeated the Illinois Fighting Illini 75-70 in a remarkable display of teamwork and talent. Led by the performance of Raymond Felton and Sean May, the Tar Heels played strong basketball on both ends of the court. They were able to make critical baskets when the game was on the line and played tenacious defense that stifled their opponent. With this victory, this year's Tar Heel team has solidified its place in college basketball history alongside Carolina greats such as Michael Jordan and James Worthy.

Roy Williams, who returned to his home state and alma mater just two years ago, earned his first title and demonstrated once again why he is one of the best coaches in college basketball. Under his leadership, this group of talented young men developed into truly great players with heart and determination.

The Tar Heels' Sean May was named most outstanding player in the Final Four for his dominant scoring and rebounding. Sean finished an incredible season with 26 points and 10 rebounds against Illinois.

This year started with great expectations as the Tar Heels were picked as the pre-season #1 team by Sports Illustrated. However, in recent years, such impressive rankings were not always the case. Seniors on this Tar Heel team faced great adversity early in their careers as they fought to overcome a disappointing 8-20 season their freshman year. Still, these players were determined to work hard to become a better team. And did they ever. Just 4 years later, these young men completed an incredible turnaround and are now able to call themselves national champions.

Today is a proud day for Coach Williams, his terrific players and the state of North Carolina. College basketball is a special tradition for so many North Carolinians. It is a pastime shared from generation to generation and amongst neighbors and friends. It's what so many folks chat about at the grocery store, before class, over dinner, and after church. We are so proud of the North Carolina Tar Heels' accomplishments this season and delighted that they gave us yet another memory to talk about for years to come.

I yield the floor.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Monday night in Saint Louis a dream season came to an end. The University of Illinois was defeated for only the second time this season as they fell to the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. But as painful as the loss was, it does not detract from a remarkable season.

Head coach Bruce Weber and his Illini should know there is nothing to be disappointed about. As much as I would have enjoyed seeing the Illini conclude their remarkable run with an NCAA championship, there is no doubting what the Illini have accomplished. The team tied an NCAA record with 37 victories. They made the first championship game appearance in the school's 100-year basketball history. They won regular-season and conference tournament Big 10 championships and were ranked first overall in the Associated Press poll since early in the season.

If I could pick one word to describe the Illini this season, it would be "team." Rarely has a group of young men worked together as well as the Illini has. After Illinois defeated Louisville 72 to 57 on Saturday evening, Louisville head coach Rick Pitino said, "I don't know if they necessarily had the greatest talent I've seen from a Final Four, but they're the best team I've seen in some time."

The Illini are the ultimate team, and that is the ultimate compliment to coach Weber and his players.

Every man on the floor was capable of leading the team to victory, whether it was guards Dee Brown, Luther Head or Deron Williams, or forwards James Augustine or Roger Powell. Yet Illinois plays within head coach Bruce Weber's system and doesn't allow ego, personal statistical goals, or anything else to disrupt their teamwork.

Unfortunately, they came up short against North Carolina. But the State of Illinois is proud of their Illini. An orange hue has been cast across the State as Illinoisans got behind the team for their NCAA tournament run. So many people have enjoyed this tournament and they won't soon forget where they were when the Illini shocked Arizona, or when Roger Powell slam-dunked the rebound from his own three-point shot against Louisville.

I would like to congratulate B. Joseph White, who became the University's 16th president on January 31 of this year, and the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and fans of the University of Illinois on making it to the championship game of the 2005 NCAA tournament.

To the coaches, Illini players, and their families, thanks for the memories. Thanks for showing us what teamwork is all about.

HONORING ARLEN LANCASTER

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a longtime staff member who is moving onto a new and exciting work challenge. Arlen Lancaster has been a valued member of my staff since the start of my first term in the Senate in 1999. He is leaving my staff to become the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Arlen joined my staff as a legislative correspondent and worked his way

through two promotions. He now serves as senior policy adviser, covering agriculture, conservation, rural development, energy and the Idaho National Laboratory, natural resources and public lands, defense as well as serving as the staff director of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization. Arlen was instrumental in the work that I have done regarding the conservation title in the 2002 farm bill and shepherding the historic Healthy Forest Restoration Act through Congress.

While Arlen's family hails from the Burley area in my home State of Idaho, he lived in many areas due to his father's work with the U.S. Air Force. He attended high school and college in Utah, graduating with a political science degree from the University of Utah. He is definitely a Westerner at heart and his work for me has benefited many in Idaho.

On a personal note, Arlen was great to work with. He is decisive, insightful and innovative. His easy-going personality and sense of humor permeated all that he did in his public service for the people of Idaho and the United States. He provided a certain spark to my office. In fact, he sparked so much with another LA that they will be getting married this summer and Arlen and Staci have my best wishes for a long, happy life together.

I am excited by Arlen's new challenge at USDA and know he is well up to the task. Although I won't have the same opportunity to work with him on a daily basis, I look forward to our new working relationship and Arlen's continuing successes. His extensive knowledge of agriculture, natural resources and other policy issues will serve Arlen well in his new capacity.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANTONIO R. BAINES

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio R. Baines, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, Colonel Baines has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Baines on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Antonio R. Baines, the son of Mr. Albert and Yolanda Baines of Jonesboro, GA, attended high school in Hephzibah, GA,

and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps after graduating from North Georgia College in 1984. His first assignment was as the Battalion Signal Officer for the 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. He has served in multiple assignments within the United States, including two tours at Ft. Gordon, GA, and notably as the Signal Officer for 1st Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment at Fort Lewis, WA, and the 82nd Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. Lieutenant Colonel Baines served two tours in Europe as the Signal Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment in Stuttgart, Germany, and deployed to South West Asia as part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Later as the Assistant Division Signal Officer for the 1st Infantry Division in Wurzburg, he again deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. As a signaler, Lieutenant Colonel Baines excelled in a wide variety of leadership and staff assignments to include Platoon Leader, Battalion Adjutant, Company Commander, Brigade Adjutant and Battalion Executive Officer.

In 1999, Lieutenant Colonel Baines was selected to be a Force Development Officer with assignment to the Pentagon. He served on the G-3 and G-8 staff as the Army's Systems Integrator for all tactical radios systems. He was subsequently selected as a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, Congressional Legislative Liaison, Programs Division from June 2001 through June 2005.

Lieutenant Colonel Baines maintained constant liaison with the Professional Staff Members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on issues relating to Army Procurement programs focusing on Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Information Technology, and Ammunition Procurement. In 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Baines was selected to be the team chief of the hardware section of the Programs Division.

Throughout these assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Baines provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. Antonio's actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of important issues. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Baines, his wife Peggy, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CARLISLE A.H. TROST, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to ADM Carlisle

A.H. Trost, U.S. Navy, Retired, as he steps down after 17 faithful, diligent, and honorable years as the chairman of the board of directors of the George and Carol Olmsted Foundation of Falls Church, VA. In years past it was a privilege to have worked closely with both George Olmsted and Admiral Trost.

Admiral Trost, who ascended to the position of Chief of Naval Operations during his long and distinguished career as a naval officer, offered his services first as a director, then as chairman of the board, of the prestigious Olmsted Foundation. Demonstrating a vital understanding of this complex world, he led the foundation in its expanding role to educate young, talented, and dedicated military officers in learning foreign languages and in understanding foreign cultures through the awarding of scholarships to study overseas for 2 years. With our military deployed for wars in over 100 countries across the globe, the importance of having officers imbued with the cultural sensitivities and language capabilities provided by this special education is essential. Thanks to Admiral Trost's innate understanding of the importance of the training provided to Olmsted scholars and his visionary leadership, the number of scholars studying annually doubled and the foundation's endowment increased dramatically.

Admiral Trost also established the Tri-Service Academy Cadet and Midshipman Overseas Travel and Cultural Immersion Program at our three service academies in 2001. He later extended this important training and educational program to the three Service Reserve Officer Training Commands, ROTC, and the six senior military colleges, title 10 schools. Admiral Trost graduated from the Naval Academy in 1953, where he was first in his class of 925 midshipmen. He went on to become an Olmsted Scholar in 1960, studying in the German language at the University of Freiburg from 1960 to 1962. From there he had a most successful tour as a submarine officer, eventually commanding the blue crew of the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, USS *Sam Rayburn*, SSBN 635.

As a young captain, he was selected by his superiors to serve as a naval aide to the Under Secretary and, later, Secretary of the Navy. It was my good fortune to have served in these positions and to have learned from this great teacher, peer, and life-long friend. Whether as a submarine group commander, a numbered fleet commander, Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, or as Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Trost always served his country with honor and dignity.

Admiral Trost has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on many critical issues and at many key levels of decision making for both the Navy and the Nation. Indeed, his actions and wise counsel over the years have been of en-

during importance to the U.S. Congress. Though he is a modest man, he truly is an extraordinary individual and leader who has contributed so much to this country and the cause of freedom. He has been dedicated fully to mission accomplishment, education, leadership, and professionalism in the highest traditions of the American spirit.●

HONORING THIRTY YEARS FOR R.J. VIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, every session in Congress, we spend a large amount of time discussing education in this country. Debates range from accountability to school construction to teacher recruitment. While our discussions are of the utmost importance, it is the implementation of our decisions by individuals within the education system that changes how our children learn. Today, I honor an elementary school in Paradis, LA that has served as an example of a great school that is achieving the goals we set forth in these halls.

R.J. Vial Elementary School will turn 30 years old this Friday, April 8th. There will be festivities and celebrations for students, alumni, teachers, administrators, and parents. But I would like to take a minute to talk about the real celebration of this school. In the past 5 years, R.J. Vial Elementary School has steadily increased the number of students passing the LEAP 21 test in all four areas that the test covers. R.J. Vial is clearly meeting its mission of developing respectful, lifelong learners. That is what I would like to celebrate today in the United States Senate.

In the April 2005 Community Newsletter of R.J. Vial Elementary School, Principal Frederick A. Treuting wrote, "Our greatest and perhaps only truly effective discipline tool is a strong relationship that bonds us to our children." Principal Treuting could not be more correct. If we are to succeed in educating our children to the best of our ability, we must reach out to them and work to raise academic achievement in our public schools by putting the priority on performance instead of process, delivering results instead of developing rules, and on actively encouraging bold reform instead of passively tolerating failure.

At 510 Louisiana Street in Paradis, LA, R.J. Vial Elementary School is already doing these things and because of that, has become one of the finest schools in the state of Louisiana. There is no greater investment we can in our future than in the education of our children. I commend the hard work of all the people who have and currently work at and with R.J. Vial Elementary School; you are giving the best gift you can to our youth. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, so we must all work together to see that we educate our children to the best of our ability. And to the students, both past